

Praying for our Seminarians

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We were blessed to have newly ordained Deacon Michael Russo to visit our parish earlier this month (September 2) at the 11:30 AM Mass. Michael was our third seminarian at OLHOC (following Chip Luckett and Andrew Clyne; who are both now priests). Several of you asked me whether we could share his homily. Here is Deacon Michael's homily:

*It has been over four years since I served this parish for a summer. That is an experience that I am deeply grateful for; I am grateful to Fr. Alain for his example of priestly service and life of prayer. I am grateful, also, to Fr. John Clark and Fr. Agustin Lopez. And I am grateful for the many friendships and connections I made here. All of these have helped me discern with certainty that God is calling me to the priesthood. This certitude has been especially important to me in what is clearly a **time of turmoil in our Church.***

*The past few months, weeks, and days have been difficult, and I suspect the challenges will continue. We have heard about a lot of sins in our Church. It is disheartening and there is no point in sugar-coating it. I do not know what the coming weeks and months will bring, but I do know that **we are a people of hope.** Our Church has weathered many crises, both internal and external, and She will survive and continue to be a channel for God's grace in the world, if we stay holy. Right now, **each of us can commit to living lives of holiness so that we can be the ones to move the Church forward.***

*Jesus gives us a way to do this in the Gospel. He challenges the Pharisees and Scribes over the issue of un-cleanness. They are upset that certain customs were being ignored, and Jesus asks them, "how does one become defiled?" It does not come from some external thing of force. It is from within. That means it is a choice we make. We are free to sin. This also means that we are free, with the help of grace, to stop sinning. We need to look within ourselves to identify what are our sins and how to overcome them. When we take that step we can move forward with God's help. I think this is a continual process. The early Church knew that Baptism forgave all sins, but they came to realize that we can still sin after, hence God's gift of the sacrament of confession. **Life is a continual conversion which will involve many confessions.** This process can be summed up in the words of St. James: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only."*

*We gather each Sunday to listen to the Word of God and to receive the Word Himself in the Eucharist. This is the spiritual foundation of our lives. We are meant to build upwards from that foundation. Catholicism is not just a one-hour-each-Sunday time commitment. When lived authentically, it is a **way of being.***

*We come here to worship God as a community to hear His word and be fed by the Bread of Heaven, and then we leave. The great sin of the scribes and Pharisees was their hypocrisy. They did the external practices of faith, but it was a façade. Sadly, some in our church have put up that same façade. The best response we can have to their inability to be authentic/ façade is to be doers of the word ourselves. Leave this Sunday liturgy **living the Catholic faith.** Yes, **pray more.** Yes, donate to charity. Yes, read the bible. Keep in mind the two examples St. James offers: **love those most in need and keep oneself free of sin.***

*Our world and our Church are going through a very challenging time. Yet, we are people of truth and we cannot shy away from that. We have the greatest ally: **the grace of God.** I believe the great lesson of Christian history is that **holy people can change the world.** Sin has been in our church from the start, yet that first generation was still able to bring the message of the Prince of Peace to all corners of the planet. With God's aide and Mary's intercession we can be doers of the word. Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for Us.*



Clearly, Deacon Michael is disheartened by the ongoing turmoil in the Catholic Church: sins of the clergy and its many suffering victims. Deacon Michael, however, keeps hope and invites all of us to stay holy: "each of us can commit to living lives of holiness so that we can be the ones to move the Church forward." I totally agree with Deacon Michael. In these challenging times for the Church, we are all invited to strive for holiness and keep the Church united. To be holy is to be with God! To be holy is to be unstained by sin. I invite all of us to go to Confession, promise to amend our lives with God's help, and obtain full reconciliation with God.

Let us pray for all the seminarians of our Archdiocese, especially Leon, Pablo, Deacon Michael and Deacon Joseph! May God protect them and may the Holy Spirit guide their discernment to the priesthood!

Let us also pray for all the victims of the clergy abuse, their families, and for the Unity and Sanctity of the whole Church!

**One in Christ,
Fr. Alain**



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Religious Education **UPDATES:**

1. Registration is online. Please register now if you haven't already done so.
2. There are some significant changes to the CCD and Sacramental Prep Calendars this year, so please be sure to get a hardcopy of the schedule this weekend. Digital copies are online.

Important Dates:

- Sept. 16/17** - Classes begin!
- Sept. 23/24 - CCD Classes
- Sept. 30/Oct. 1 - CCD Classes
- Oct. 7/8 - CCD Classes
- Oct. 14/15 - CCD Classes



For more information send an email to dre@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Therese, Director of Religious Education.



SAVE THE DATE!

First All-Youth Night: Sunday, Sept. 30 with 4 pm Youth Mass, followed by pizza and various youth group gatherings:

- FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team
- Edge: Middle school youth ministry
- Life Teen: High school youth ministry

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our Youth Support Team is an integral part of our Youth Ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with events or joining the core team working directly with the youth. VIRTUS compliance is required. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the parish website or talk to Marlen Coles, Director of Youth and Evangelization.

For most current Youth and Evangelization events, please see our website: www.olhoc.org.

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Our Younger Generation and the Catholic Faith

Thank you to all who have signed up to serve as mentors for our Confirmation program and attended our training last week. If you signed up but did not attend the training, please be sure to obtain calendars from Therese Thiedeman.



OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Preschool openings (3 and 4 year olds) at OLHOC! Full and half-day programs. We include children's chapel services and many opportunities for family involvement! Register now to secure your child's seat for the 2018-19 school year.



For more information send an email to preschool@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

OLHOC Community Outreach wants your input!

In an effort to better serve the needs of the OLHOC Community, all are welcome to attend a **special meeting on September 19 at 7 PM** in the Social Hall to "brainstorm" new ideas and projects. Please come with any and all possibilities you would like to discuss. If you cannot attend please write out your ideas and leave them in the office c/o Dick Potter.



The next Shepherd's Table dinner is set for Thursday, **September 20** at Good Shepherd Church.

The next regularly scheduled Outreach meeting is **October 10 at 7:00 pm** in the Social Hall. New members and ideas are always welcome!

Though in the middle of a heat wave, we are collecting in the Social Hall new and gently used winter coats, hats and gloves for Children's Aid and area shelters.

Sharing Sunday—Non-perishable food donations are always welcome and can be left in the Social Hall. All donations will go to the local food bank, managed by Catholic Charities, on Irongate Drive in Waldorf.

Prayer Requests *

We are asked to pray for: Bonnie Croston, Melody Hudson, Dennis Forgash, Lloyd Coadner, Kurt Coadner, Nikki Lemke, Thomas Kennane, Joe Albrittain, Lam Family, Darren Williams, Mary Delores Proctor, Pat Fisher, Antonio Torres, Chris Goldhammer, Trinidad Mercedes Santos, Shirley & Jerry Barrett, June Swann, Elsy Canare, Martone Family, Maria Mora, Nadia Toledo, Cielo Quintero, Zynae Green, Green Family, Anthony Rodriguez, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, David Parady, Linda Bourne, Rebecca "Tess" Franch, Alex Leon, Connie Miller, Wanda Roberts, Fr. Kleinstuber, Georgiana Norgren, Scott Anderson, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.



**Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.*

Mass Intentions this Week

- Saturday, September 15, 9:00 AM: Carolina Magallanez de Montes (+)**
- Saturday, September 15, 5:00 PM: Hall Family**
- Sunday, September 16, 8:30 AM: Robert D. Coates (+)**
- Sunday, September 16, 10:00 AM: Ramón García (+)**
- Sunday, September 16, 11:30 AM: Jaime Borja (+)**
- Sunday, September 16, 1:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners**
- Sunday, September 16, 7:00 PM: Elvira Guerrero (+)**
- Monday, September 17, 9:00 AM: Kurt Coadner**
- Tuesday, September 18, 9:00 AM: Joe & Anna Marie Gonzales (+)**
- Wednesday, September 19, 9:00 AM: Maria Lam**
- Thursday, September 20, 9:00 AM: Patricia Trabanino**
- Friday, September 21, 9:00 AM: Ligia Lam**



Fr. Alain is grateful to each of you and thanks you all for your participation in making last weekend's Parish Anniversary Celebration a successful one!

Dear thanks especially to those who stayed through the night with our Lord, And the efforts of Jeannie Jacobs and the picnic crew!

Your Church; the Lord's House

Continue to please respect your church, the Lord's house, and refrain from taking any food or beverage into the Church. If children need food or beverages, please use the cry room or Social Hall. We have incurred some pew damage. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as foot rests.

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary



**Sunday Vigil - October 7
Beginning 5:00 PM
Rosary, Procession and
Mass with
Bishop Dorsonville**

More details to come!

**Will include visitation of the
International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima**

Mass Readings for September 23, 2018

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

***Second Reading**

James 3:16-4:3

***Gospel**

Mark 9:30-37



www.usccb.org



The GIFT

a *Life in the Spirit* course

Prayerfully consider making this course part of your journey of faith in our Year of the Holy Spirit!

We have two session times available to choose from for this six week course. Come join us!

Our Lady Help of Christians Church

Beginning Saturday morning, October 20, 2018, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM (includes breakfast)

OR

Tuesday, October 23, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM (includes dinner)

This year of the Holy Spirit, receive the GIFT - This is an inspiring and practical series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit. Presented by well known international speakers, the teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The cost of the series is \$10. Sign up by contacting Deacon Rich at: deacon@olhoc.org or call the office 301-645-7112. There is also a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex. Soon to feature on-line registration.



“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love!”



The Restorers of Mount Carmel are sponsoring a mini-retreat on Saturday, October 6, 2018, at Mount Carmel, 5678 Mount Carmel Road, La Plata, MD 20646. The retreat will begin with 8:00 am Mass and will end by 2:00 pm. Cost is \$30 per person and includes Mass, several talks, quiet time, confessions, rosary, benediction/exposition, continental breakfast, snacks, beverages, boxed lunch, and hand outs. Father Ken Gill, Pastor of St. Catherine's (McConchie) and also St. Ignatius (Hilltop), is the retreat master.

Please call Suzanne Carr at 301.645.5203 to make reservation. Please make check payable to Suzanne Carr and send to Suzanne Carr, 12944 Waldorf Forest Road, Waldorf, MD 20601.

Maryland Catholic Women's Conference

October 6 - 7:30 AM-6:00 PM

FEARLESS

The call for prayer and assurance in the church and Christ is stronger than ever. Help us as we work for women and families at this one-day conference in Baltimore. Cost is \$45.00 (includes meals). Please email

marylandcatholicwomen@gmail.com
or call Jeanne at 443-324-8487



ADW Fall Workshops in our County

Saturday, October 27

***Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

9:00 am to Noon

***Lector Workshop**

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

At St. Peter's Church in Waldorf. RSVP by emailing liturgy@adw.org. A \$5 registration fee can be paid at the door. Questions? Call the ADW Worship Office 301-853-4594